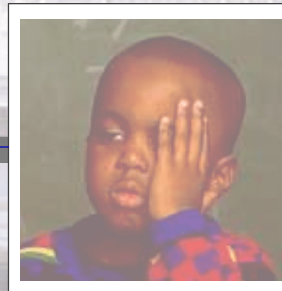
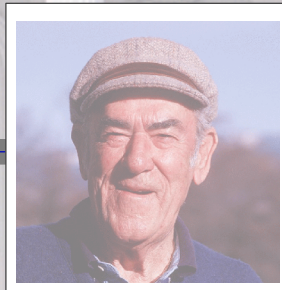


# THE REPUBLICAN VS THE DEMOCRATIC RECORD ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE AMERICAN FAMILY

*CHILDREN*



*SENIORS*



*WOMEN*



## SPECIAL REPORT

November 1, 2000

# THE REPUBLICAN VS. THE DEMOCRATIC RECORD ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE AMERICAN FAMILY

This House Democratic Policy Committee special report provides one-page comparisons of the Republican and the Democratic records over the last two years on issues of importance to a variety of Americans, as follows:

- Middle-class families;
- Children;
- Seniors;
- Women;
- 20-Somethings;
- Labor;
- Rural Americans;
- African Americans; and
- Hispanic Americans.

This Special Report shows that, on issue after issue of importance to Americans – a Medicare prescription drug benefit, a real Patients’ Bill of Rights, providing a quality education for all of America’s schoolchildren, equal pay for women, common-sense gun safety measures, expanding access to quality child care, middle-class tax cuts, and preventing hate crimes – Democrats have had a record of pursuing positive solutions.

By contrast, this Special Report shows that, on these issues of importance to Americans, the Republican leadership has only had a record of blocking progress, even in the face of bipartisan agreement – pursuing the interests of their special-interest friends instead.

# MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES

REPUBLICANS:	DEMOCRATS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have <b>BLOCKED</b> <u>middle-class tax cuts</u>, in favor of massive tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans</li> </ul> <p>The Republicans' marriage penalty relief bill was targeted at upper-income couples, with <u>half</u> the relief going to couples not paying any marriage penalty and even receiving marriage bonuses!! The Republicans' estate tax relief bill was targeted at the very wealthiest – with half of the relief going to only 3,000 of America's wealthiest families.</p> <p>In 2000, GOP has passed their 1999 \$1 trillion tax cut package in smaller pieces, with 60% of the GOP tax cuts still going to the top 5% of taxpayers. At same time, GOP has blocked middle-class tax cuts being promoted by Democrats.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have <b>FOUGHT</b> for <u>middle-class tax cuts</u></li> </ul> <p>In contrast to Republicans, the Democrats have promoted marriage penalty relief targeted at middle-class families and promoted estate tax relief targeted at small business owners and family farmers.</p> <p>The Democrats have also fought for a series of other middle-class tax cuts, including making college more affordable by making \$10,000 of college tuition tax-deductible, making child care more affordable by expanding the child care tax credit, providing tax credits for health insurance coverage, and providing tax preferences to help families save for retirement.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have <b>FAILED</b> to support our nation's <u>education priorities</u></li> </ul> <p>Have voted for Republican education funding bills that have <u>shortchanged</u> a number of key education initiatives, including the initiative to reduce class size, fund emergency school health and safety repairs, promote Teacher Quality Initiatives, and expand after-school programs. Instead have promoted education block grants, with limited accountability for results.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have <b>LED THE EFFORT</b> to enhance and modernize our nation's <u>education system</u></li> </ul> <p>The <u>number-one</u> priority of middle-class families across the country is ensuring that their children have access to a quality education. Democrats have been fighting for a multi-pronged agenda to improve public education – including reducing class size in the early grades, modernizing schools, promoting teacher quality, expanding after-school programs, and increasing the accountability of schools and school districts.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have <b>BURIED</b> the true <u>Patients' Bill of Rights</u></li> </ul> <p>Republicans have buried the true Patients' Bill of Rights – the Dingell-Norwood Patients' Bill of Rights – in a conference committee over the past year. To ensure its demise, Speaker Hastert stacked the conference committee with opponents of Dingell-Norwood.</p> <p>Although this crucial legislation enjoyed widespread bipartisan support in Congress, the Republican Leadership has stalled and disrupted the process with <u>one</u> intention – to kill the true Patients' Bill of Rights. And they have succeeded.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have <b>FOUGHT</b> to enact a true <u>Patients' Bill of Rights</u></li> </ul> <p>Democrats have fought for years to enact the true Patients' Bill of Rights – the strong, enforceable, bipartisan Dingell-Norwood Patients' Bill of Rights. This Patients' Bill of Rights would ensure that medical decisions are once again made by doctors, rather than HMO bureaucrats.</p> <p>Over the fierce opposition of the GOP leadership, Democrats worked with a group of Republicans to pass the Dingell-Norwood bill in October 1999 – but the GOP leadership has blocked the Dingell-Norwood bill from ever getting to the President's desk, burying it in a conference committee.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have <b>BLOCKED</b> Democrats' efforts to expand the affordability and availability of <u>child care</u></li> </ul> <p>Have blocked any consideration of Democrats' child care proposals, including expanding the child care tax credit, providing a tax credit for employers to provide child care, and expanding the Child Care and Development Block Grant..</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have <b>FOUGHT</b> to expand the affordability and availability of <u>child care</u></li> </ul> <p>Have fought to expand the affordability and availability of child care, through such steps as expanding the child care tax credit, providing a tax credit for employers who provide child care, and expanding the Child Care and Development Block Grant.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have <b>BLOCKED</b> the <u>Equal Pay Initiative</u></li> </ul> <p>Ignoring the pleas of the thousands of women advocates who came to the Capitol on Equal Pay Day, 2000, the Republicans have spent the last two years refusing to bring the important Equal Pay Initiative (H.R. 541/S. 74) to the House and Senate Floors for a vote.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have <b>LED THE FIGHT</b> to pass the <u>Equal Pay Initiative</u></li> </ul> <p><b>Equal pay is not just a women's issue – it is a family issue.</b> Women are often providing a significant part of their family's income, and in many cases they are the sole wage earners. The average family loses \$4,000 per year due to women's pay inequity. The Democrats' Equal Pay Initiative would toughen the remedies under the Equal Pay Act.</p>

# CHILDREN

REPUBLICANS:	DEMOCRATS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have FAILED to support key <u>education</u> priorities for our nation's children</b></li> </ul> <p>The FY '01 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, passed by House Republicans on 6/14/00, would not guarantee one federal dollar for <b>class size reduction</b>. The GOP bill also:</p> <p>Rejected the Democrats' <b>Teacher Quality Initiative</b>. Instead, the GOP bill proposed a Class Size Reduction/Teacher Quality block grant that fell \$1 billion short of the Democrats' proposed funding for class size reduction and teacher quality.</p> <p>Rejected Democrats' <b>school modernization and school renovation</b> proposals.</p> <p>Cut \$400 million from the Democrats' <b>After-School Programs</b> proposal, thereby funding 3,100 fewer after-school centers serving 1.6 million fewer children.</p> <p>Cut \$600 million from the Democrats' <b>Head Start</b> proposal, thereby serving 50,000 fewer low-income children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have LED THE EFFORT to enhance and modernize our <u>education</u> system for our nation's children</b></li> </ul> <p>The Democrats' plan would provide \$1.75 billion for third installment for <b>class size reduction</b> in the early grades to bring the nationwide average class size to 18 students.</p> <p>Would provide a new \$1 billion <b>Teacher Quality Initiative</b>, helping school districts begin recruiting and training the 2.2 million good new teachers who will be needed over the next 10 years.</p> <p>Would subsidize \$25 billion in <b>School Modernization Bonds</b> to build and/or modernize 6,000 schools across the country. Also would provide \$1.3 billion for urgent safety repairs at schools.</p> <p>Would provide \$1 billion for <b>After-School Programs</b>, thereby supporting over 10,000 after-school centers serving 2.5 million schoolchildren.</p> <p>Would provide \$6.3 billion for <b>Head Start</b>, bringing the total number of children in Head Start to 950,000.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have BLOCKED Democrats' efforts to expand access to child care</b></li> </ul> <p>Have refused to consider both the Democrats' expanded child care tax credit and the tax credit for employers providing child care. Have also blocked the Democrats' initiative to expand the Child Care and Development Block Grant.</p> <p>Have also blocked the Democrats' child care quality initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have FOUGHT to significantly expand working families' access to child care</b></li> </ul> <p>Have fought to make child care more affordable through expanding the child care tax credit and more accessible by providing a tax credit for employers who provide child care. Have also fought for an expanded Child Care Block Grant.</p> <p>Democrats have also called for improving the quality of child care through such steps as scholarships and training for child care providers, networks for day care providers, etc.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have FAILED to act on enrolling uninsured children</b></li> </ul> <p>Have failed to act on Democrats' efforts to enroll millions of <b>uninsured children</b> in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have FOUGHT to enroll uninsured children in Medicaid &amp; CHIP</b></li> </ul> <p>Democrats have called for enrolling millions of <b>uninsured children</b> in Medicaid and CHIP by expanding the sites authorized to enroll children, improving outreach efforts, and requiring states to make enrollment simple.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have BLOCKED common-sense <u>gun-safety and school violence prevention legislation</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Despite the fact that modest, common-sense gun safety measures passed the Senate in May 1999, the GOP leadership, working with the NRA, has been sadly successful in preventing <u>any</u> gun safety measures from reaching the President's desk – burying the measures in a conference committee. Republicans have also voted for a <u>cut</u> in the President's FY 2001 request of \$650 million for the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program – endorsing a cut of \$51 million.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have LED THE FIGHT to enact common-sense <u>gun-safety and school violence prevention legislation</u></b></li> </ul> <p>This past session of Congress has represented the greatest opportunity to pass reasonable gun-safety legislation since the Democrats passed the Brady Bill in 1993. Democrats have called for enactment of modest, common-sense gun safety measures in order to reduce the access of children and criminals to guns, including mandatory child safety locks. Democrats have also called for expansion of the Safe and Drug-Free School program – the only federal school violence prevention program.</p>

# SENIORS

REPUBLICANS:	DEMOCRATS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>BLOCKED</b> a real prescription drug benefit through Medicare, passing <u>a sham bill</u> instead</li> </ul> <p>The Republicans rammed through Congress a special-interest driven prescription drug scheme without a single committee hearing this past June.</p> <p>The GOP plan took the first step towards privatizing Medicare, forcing seniors to deal with private insurance companies instead of having the choice of getting their prescriptions through Medicare. This bill would fail to provide help to millions of seniors who are dealing with the sky-high costs of prescription drugs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> to pass a real <u>prescription drug benefit</u> which would be provided through <u>Medicare</u></li> </ul> <p>Democrats have been fighting for the only plan that will provide real, affordable, voluntary, and reliable prescription drug coverage for all seniors through Medicare.</p> <p>In contrast to the GOP plan, the Democratic plan is the only plan that provides all seniors with a voluntary prescription drug benefit through the Medicare program. Unlike the GOP plan, the Democratic plan will make prescription drug coverage affordable for all seniors.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>BLOCKED</b> ironclad <u>Social Security and Medicare lockboxes</u> with no “trap-doors”</li> </ul> <p>Republicans put forward a Social Security lockbox that had a “trap-door” – i.e., allowing the Social Security surplus to be used for partial privatization schemes. Similarly, Republicans put forward a Medicare lockbox that had a “trap-door” – i.e., allowing the Medicare surplus to be used for partial privatization schemes.</p> <p>Republicans have refused to pass legislation that would take Medicare completely off-budget.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> for ironclad <u>Social Security and Medicare lockboxes</u> with no “trap-doors”</li> </ul> <p>Democrats have fought for locking away 100% of the Social Security surplus in a lockbox with no “trap-doors,” ensuring that the surplus is used <u>only</u> for Social Security benefits. Democrats have also fought for locking away 100% of the Medicare surplus in a lockbox with no “trap-doors,” ensuring that the surplus is used <u>only</u> for Medicare benefits.</p> <p>Democrats are also insisting that Medicare be taken <u>completely</u> off-budget – the only way to fully protect the program.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>BLOCKED</b> proposals to enhance <u>pension access</u> and <u>pension protection</u> for seniors</li> </ul> <p>Republicans have blocked steps to expand access to pensions, including the small business tax credit for pension start-ups and making a simplified defined benefit plan available to employees.</p> <p>Republicans have also blocked efforts to enact new pension protections, which would make pensions more secure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> for <u>pension access</u> and <u>pension protection</u> for seniors</li> </ul> <p>Have fought to expand access to pensions, through providing small businesses a \$2,000 tax credit for pension start-up and making a simplified defined benefit plan available to employees.</p> <p>Have fought for new pension protections which would make pensions more secure by preventing corporations from raiding employee pensions, providing meaningful audits, expanding right-to-know standards, and shortening vesting periods.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>PROPOSED</b> a scheme to <u>partially privatize Social Security</u></li> </ul> <p>Republicans put forward a scheme to partially privatize Social Security, draining \$1 trillion from the Social Security Trust Fund to create individual investment accounts for younger workers. Draining \$1 trillion from the Trust Fund would shorten the solvency of Social Security by 14 years and would lead to a cut in guaranteed Social Security benefits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> against any proposal to <u>partially privatize Social Security</u></li> </ul> <p>Democrats have opposed proposals to partially privatize Social Security – arguing that 100% of the Social Security Trust Fund must be used to pay the Social Security benefits guaranteed to beneficiaries. Democrats call for “Social Security Plus” – Retirement Savings Accounts <u>on top of</u> individuals’ Social Security benefits, not subtracted from them.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>GUTTED</b> <u>prescription drug re-importation</u> provisions, at the behest of the drug companies</li> </ul> <p>On October 12, 2000, the House Republicans gutted a strong, bipartisan Rx drug re-importation measure, which would have significantly reduced prescription drug prices for seniors.</p> <p>The Republican sham bill is riddled with loopholes, allowing pharmaceutical companies to circumvent the new law and setting up a scenario that makes sure the measure will never get implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> to enact truly effective <u>prescription drug re-importation</u> provisions</li> </ul> <p>On Wednesday, October 11, Democrats – by a vote of 201 to 214 – were thwarted in their attempt to close the loopholes in the Republicans’ prescription drug re-importation scheme.</p> <p>Although never a substitute for a Medicare prescription benefit that offers a guaranteed benefit and lowers medicine prices for all seniors, Democrats are fighting for truly effective Rx drug re-importation legislation that contains strong safety standards.</p>

# WOMEN

REPUBLICANS:	DEMOCRATS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>REFUSED</b> to allow the <u>Equal Pay Initiative</u> to reach the House and Senate floor</li> </ul> <p>Ignoring the pleas of the thousands of women advocates who came to the Capitol on Equal Pay Day, 2000, the Republicans have spent the last two years refusing to bring the important Equal Pay Initiative (H.R. 541/S. 74) to the House and Senate Floors for a vote.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> for passage of an <u>Equal Pay Initiative</u></li> </ul> <p>Currently, working women earn only 73 cents for every dollar earned by men. Democrats have been fighting to help end the wage gap between men and women by promoting an Equal Pay Initiative (H.R. 541/S. 74). This initiative would toughen the remedy provisions of the Equal Pay Act by allowing compensatory and punitive damages when appropriate. Democrats have also called for increased resources for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in order to enhance enforcement of the Equal Pay Act.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>BLOCKED</b> efforts to promote <u>pension equity</u> for women</li> </ul> <p>Have blocked moving forward on the Democrats' Pension Equity for Women Initiative, which would expand women's access to pensions and provide women better pension protections.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> to promote <u>pension equity</u> for women</li> </ul> <p>Current pension laws were written well before women made up a significant portion of the workforce. Democrats have fought for a Pension Equity for Women Initiative, including provisions to expand women's access to pensions and provide women better pension protections.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>BLOCKED</b> efforts to expand <u>access to child care</u> and increase the <u>quality of child care</u></li> </ul> <p>Have refused to consider both the Democrats' expanded child care tax credit and the tax credit for employers providing child care. Also blocked the Democrats' initiative to expand the Child Care and Development Block Grant.</p> <p>Also have blocked the Democrats' child care quality initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> to significantly expand <u>access to child care</u> and increase the <u>quality of child care</u></li> </ul> <p>Have fought to make child care more affordable through expanding the child care tax credit and more accessible by providing a tax credit for employers who provide child care. Also fought for an expanded Child Care and Development Block Grant.</p> <p>Democrats have also called for improving the quality of child care through such steps as scholarships and training for child care providers, networks for day care providers, etc.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>Tried to BLOCK</b> key initiatives <u>to improve public education</u>, instead supporting block grants</li> </ul> <p>Have voted for Republican education funding bills that have shortchanged a number of key education initiatives, including the initiative to reduce class size, fund emergency school health and safety repairs, and promote Teacher Quality initiatives. Instead promoted education block grants, with limited accountability for results.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>LED THE EFFORT</b> to <u>improve public education</u>, believing that <u>all</u> children deserve a quality education</li> </ul> <p>Democrats have fought for a multi-pronged education agenda to improve public education for all of America's schoolchildren. This agenda has included hiring more well-trained teachers to reduce class size and ensure children receive personal attention, subsidizing School Modernization Bonds to build and modernize 6,000 schools, funding emergency school health and safety repairs, promoting Teacher Quality initiatives, expanding after-school programs, and expanding Head Start.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Working with the NRA, Have BLOCKED</b> bipartisan, common-sense <u>gun-safety legislation</u></li> </ul> <p>Despite the fact that bipartisan, common-sense gun safety measures passed the Senate in May 1999, the GOP leadership, working with the NRA, has spent the last year and a half preventing <u>any</u> gun safety measures from reaching the President's desk – instead burying them in a conference. In blocking these measures, the GOP has ignored the pleas of America's mothers. On Mother's Day 2000, hundreds of thousands of mothers participated in the <b>Million Mom March</b>, here in Washington, D.C. (as well as in 70 other cities across the country), calling on the Congress to act.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>LED THE FIGHT</b> for enactment of bipartisan, common-sense <u>gun-safety legislation</u></li> </ul> <p>Democrats are concerned that it is too easy in our society for children and criminals to get access to guns – as has been evidenced with school shootings across the country. After the tragic mass shooting at Columbine High School in April 1999, Democrats fought to enact modest, common-sense gun safety measures that would make it less likely that children and criminals get access to guns. These modest measures included making child safety locks on handguns mandatory and closing the gun show loophole.</p>



## 20-SOMETHINGS

REPUBLICANS:	DEMOCRATS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have BLOCKED proposals to better ensure that all Americans have <u>access to college</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Republicans have <u>blocked</u> the Democrats' proposal to make available to every middle-class family a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 for college tuition.</p> <p>Republicans have also voted for GOP education funding bills that have failed to include the President's requested funding for the important GEAR-UP program and the President's requested funding for the equally important TRIO programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have FOUGHT for all Americans to have <u>access to college</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Democrats have stood with President Clinton in seeking to make available to every middle-class family a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 for college tuition, to make sure all children have the opportunity to go to college.</p> <p>Democrats have also supported fully funding the GEAR-UP program, providing funds for states and local partnerships to help low-income students prepare for college, as well as TRIO programs funding postsecondary education outreach and support services to prepare disadvantaged students to enter and complete college study.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have PANDERED to the HMOs and Insurance Companies</b></li> </ul> <p>Republicans have successfully buried the true Patients' Bill of Rights – the Dingell-Norwood Patients' Bill of Rights – in a conference committee for the past year – preventing the measure from reaching the President's desk. To ensure its demise, Speaker Hastert stacked the conference committee with opponents of Dingell-Norwood.</p> <p>Although this crucial legislation enjoyed widespread bipartisan support in Congress, the Republican Leadership has stalled and disrupted the process with <u>one</u> intention – to kill the true Patients' Bill of Rights. And they have succeeded.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have FOUGHT to enact a true <u>Patients' Bill of Rights</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Democrats have fought for years to enact the true Patients' Bill of Rights – the strong, enforceable, bipartisan Dingell-Norwood Patients' Bill of Rights. This Patients' Bill of Rights would ensure that medical decisions are once again made by doctors, rather than HMO bureaucrats.</p> <p>Over the fierce opposition of the GOP leadership, Democrats worked with a group of Republicans to pass the Dingell-Norwood bill in October 1999 – but the GOP leadership has blocked the Dingell-Norwood bill from ever getting to the President's desk, burying it in a conference committee.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have CATERED to the big-money special interests</b></li> </ul> <p>Republicans have consistently buckled due to pressure from the big-money special interests. The NRA, the Pharmaceutical Industry, the HMOs and the Religious Right determine their policies, leaving gun safety, prescription coverage, a Patients' Bill of rights, a minimum wage increase, and other crucial bills hanging out to dry.</p>	<p><b>Have FOUGHT for real <u>Campaign Finance Reform</u></b></p> <p>Democrats have fought for real campaign finance reform to topple the immense power of the special interests, including a ban on the soft money that has corrupted our political system. Over the fierce opposition of the GOP leadership, Democrats worked with a group of Republicans to pass reform in September 1999 – but the GOP leadership has blocked it from ever getting to the President's desk.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have BLOCKED common-sense <u>gun-safety legislation</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Despite the fact that modest, common-sense gun safety measures passed the Senate in May 1999, the GOP leadership, working with the NRA, has been successful in preventing any gun safety measures from reaching the President's desk over the last 17 months – burying the measures in a conference committee. This has successfully led to the death of this crucial legislation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have FOUGHT for common-sense <u>gun safety legislation</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Democrats have fought time and time again for common-sense gun safety legislation only to be rebuffed by the NRA/GOP compact. This session of Congress represented the greatest opportunity to pass reasonable gun safety legislation since the Democrats passed the Brady Bill in 1993. Yet, the valiant efforts by the Democrats were thwarted as the GOP Leadership has killed these common-sense gun safety provisions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have BACKED a series of anti-environmental riders, endangering our <u>natural resources</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Republicans have continually attached anti-environmental riders to appropriations bills in an attempt to keep the government from protecting our nation's beauty and natural resources. Republicans have also failed to pass a Brownfields Initiative and a full CARA bill to provide permanent guaranteed funding for land conservation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have SUPPORTED protecting our <u>natural resources</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Democrats have opposed a series of anti-environmental riders that Republicans have promoted over the last two years. Democrats have also supported a full CARA bill, providing permanent guaranteed funding for land conservation, and enactment of a Brownfields Initiative to clean up industrial sites.</p>

# LABOR

REPUBLICANS:	DEMOCRATS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>DELAYED</b> <u>a minimum wage increase</u> for three years</li> </ul> <p>Since January 1998, Democrats have been pushing a one dollar increase in the minimum wage over two years. Republicans have successfully delayed this increase for three years. Now, at the end of 2000, they're <u>still</u> trying to attach massive, special-interest tax breaks to any minimum wage increase.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> for a minimum wage increase</li> </ul> <p>Democrats have been fighting for three years to give millions of Americans a pay raise by increasing the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$6.15 per hour over a two-year period. A full time minimum wage worker makes \$10,712 per year -- more than \$3,000 below the poverty line for a family of three.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>worked to BLOCK</b> <u>ergonomics standard</u> for 6 years</li> </ul> <p>For the last six years, at the behest of the business community, House Republicans have been working to block OSHA from implementing an ergonomics rule.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> for fair, balanced <u>ergonomics standard</u></li> </ul> <p>Democrats have been supporting a fair, balanced OSHA ergonomics standard to address the 600,000 yearly instances of workers suffering injuries due to ergonomic hazards.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FAILED</b> to move forward on the <u>Equal Pay Initiative</u></li> </ul> <p>Despite the fact that women still earn only <u>73 cents</u> for every dollar earned by a man, the Republican leadership has done <u>nothing</u> on this important issue, blocking the Equal Pay Initiative.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> for an <u>Equal Pay Initiative</u>, to help close the wage gap between male and female workers</li> </ul> <p>The Democrats have spent the last two years fighting for the Democrats' Equal Pay Initiative (H.R. 541/S. 74), which would work to close the wage gap between male and female workers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>BLOCKED</b> Democratic initiatives for improved <u>child care</u> options for working families</li> </ul> <p>Despite the growing numbers of families relying on income from both parents, and the growing need for affordable, safe child care, the Republican leadership has done <u>nothing</u> to address this vital issue, blocking Democratic initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> for improved <u>child care</u> options for working families</li> </ul> <p>Democrats have fought for improved child care options for working families, through such steps as expanding the child care tax credit, providing a tax credit for employers who provide child care, and expanding the child care block grant.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>CUT</b> funding for <u>workplace safety</u> and proposed <b>WEAKENING</b> <u>workers' rights</u></li> </ul> <p>The House Republicans' FY 2001 Labor-HHS-Education funding bill, passed by House Republicans on June 14, 2000, cut requested funding for OSHA - leaving OSHA unable to inspect 1,500 workplaces.</p> <p>Republicans on the Education and the Workforce Committee reported out (on a party-line vote) H.R. 1987, which would impose "loser-pays" rules on OSHA/NLRB legal actions, thereby limiting their ability to defend worker rights and improve workplace safety.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>WORKED</b> to enhance <u>workplace safety</u> and <u>workers' rights</u></li> </ul> <p>Democrats have opposed the Republican proposed cut in requested funding for OSHA, instead supporting efforts to improve workplace safety.</p> <p>Democrats have also opposed the Republican anti-worker bill, H.R. 1987, which would impose "loser-pays" rules on OSHA/NLRB legal actions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>SLASHED</b> funding for <u>dislocated worker programs</u></li> </ul> <p>Despite the 500,000 manufacturing jobs lost since March 1998, the House Republicans' FY 2001 Labor-HHS-Education funding bill, passed by Republicans on June 14, 2000, cut the Labor Department's dislocated worker programs <u>by over \$200 million</u>, eliminating job training programs for 120,000 workers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>OPPOSED</b> cuts in <u>dislocated worker programs</u></li> </ul> <p>Have opposed the Republican proposed cuts in the Labor Department's dislocated worker programs. Instead, Democrats are working to restore these cuts in the final bill to be sent to the President.</p>



# RURAL AMERICANS

REPUBLICANS:	DEMOCRATS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have FAILED to meet the needs of <u>family farmers</u></b></li> </ul> <p>After three years of record low farm prices, farm families are struggling to survive the agriculture policies of the Republican Congress. In 1996, the Republican Congress passed what they took pride in calling a <u>landmark</u> bill – the “Freedom to Farm” bill.</p> <p>The last three years have highlighted that the Republicans’ 1996 “Freedom to Farm” bill has <u>shredded</u> the farm safety net. The year 1999 was the second year of a major recession in the agricultural economy – and with no real farm safety net in place, local commodity prices caused <u>thousands of farm bankruptcies</u> and severely depressed farm incomes. Indeed, the cash receipts of America’s farmers fell by \$19 billion or 10% between 1997 (the first year Freedom to Farm was fully implemented) and 1999 (the latest data available).</p> <p>In 1998, it took a presidential veto to get Republicans to accept emergency relief for farmers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have FOUGHT for a new <u>Farm Safety Net</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Democrats support putting a new farm safety net in place to support farm income. Democrats have been fighting to protect the vital farm sector of our economy and assure that America’s food supply is secure.</p> <p>Over the last couple of years, Democrats have been concerned about the crisis in the farm economy and have called on the GOP Congress to step in to provide a safety net to protect family farmers. Democrats believe that America’s family farmers deserve to know that at the end of a hard day’s work and delivering a successful crop that they will have the income to pay their bills. Democrats are working now to try to see that steps are taken to permanently <u>restore</u> a farm safety net for family farmers in the years ahead.</p> <p>Democrats were first to push for emergency aid for farmers while the Republicans ignored the crisis.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have <u>SHORTCHANGED</u> hard-pressed hospitals, including <u>rural hospitals</u></b></li> </ul> <p>The GOP Medicare Balanced Budget Act (BBA) Payment Restorations bill, passed by Republicans on October 26, shortchanges hard-pressed hospitals, including rural hospitals – instead providing the GOP special-interest allies, the HMO industry, a bonanza – \$11 billion in restored Medicare payments, or <u>40%</u> of all restored Medicare payments, even though only 15% of Medicare beneficiaries are in HMOs!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have FOUGHT for more adequate Medicare payment restorations for hard-pressed hospitals, including <u>rural hospitals</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Democrats are fighting for a Medicare Balanced Budget Act (BBA) Payments Restoration bill that provides a full inflation adjustment over the next two years for hard-pressed hospitals, including rural hospitals (unlike the GOP bill). In addition, the Democratic proposal would provide a higher level of reimbursement than the GOP bill for rural hospitals serving low-income individuals.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have FAILED to provide adequate Medicare payments for <u>rural home health agencies</u></b></li> </ul> <p>The GOP Medicare Balanced Budget Act (BBA) Payment Restorations bill, passed by Republicans on October 26, also fails to provide adequate Medicare payments for rural home health agencies – <u>failing</u> to include the Democrats’ proposal for a 10% bonus for rural agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have FOUGHT for more adequate Medicare payments for <u>rural home health agencies</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Democrats are also fighting for a Medicare Balanced Budget Act (BBA) Payments Restoration bill that provides rural home health agencies a 10% bonus to compensate for the high cost of travel and the lower volume of patients seen per hour in rural areas (a provision not included in the GOP bill).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have FAILED to fully fund the President’s Digital Divide Initiative</b></li> </ul> <p>In their appropriations bills, Republicans have <u>failed</u> to fully fund the President’s Digital Divide Initiative. A significant portion of the Digital Divide Initiative is designed to help close the Digital Divide in Rural America.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have FOUGHT for the President’s <u>Digital Divide</u> Initiative</b></li> </ul> <p>Over the last year, Democrats have been fighting for President Clinton’s Digital Divide Initiative – designed to close the Digital Divide across America. A significant portion of the President’s initiative is designed to help close the Digital Divide in Rural America. Currently, those living in rural areas are lagging behind in both computer ownership and Internet access – restricting their opportunities to participate in the New Economy.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have <u>BLOCKED</u> the Johnson-Rangel School Modernization Initiative, which would help hard-pressed <u>rural school districts</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Over the last year, Republicans have <u>blocked</u> the Johnson-Rangel School Modernization bill, subsidizing \$25 billion in school bonds, which both rural and urban school districts desperately need.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have FOUGHT for the Johnson-Rangel School Modernization Initiative, which would help hard-pressed <u>rural school districts</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Over the last year, Democrats have fought for Johnson-Rangel School Modernization bill subsidizing \$25 billion in school bonds, which both rural and urban school districts desperately need.</p>

# AFRICAN AMERICANS

REPUBLICANS:	DEMOCRATS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>BALKED</b> on the <u>Hate Crimes</u> Prevention Act</li> </ul> <p>The GOP leadership has repeatedly stalled on passing the bipartisan Hate Crimes bill. This year, there were bipartisan votes in both the House and the Senate in favor of adding the Hate Crimes bill to the DOD Authorization bill. However, despite the strong, bipartisan votes in both houses, on October 5, the GOP conferees on the DOD Authorization bill, at their leadership's direction, voted <u>not</u> to include the hate crimes provisions in the final DOD Authorization conference report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> for enactment of hate crimes bill</li> </ul> <p>Democrats have fought over the last two years for enactment of the bipartisan Hate Crimes bill, which would extend federal hate crime prevention – which currently covers race, religion, color and national origin – to cover gender, sexual orientation, and disability. The bill also contains provisions to enhance the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes by federal, state and local law enforcement officials. Democrats would make Hate Crimes legislation a top priority in a Democratic Congress.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>REFUSED</b> to combat <u>racial profiling</u></li> </ul> <p>The House Judiciary Committee reported out the Traffic Stops Statistics Study Act in 1999 by voice vote but the Republican leadership has <u>refused</u> to bring it up on the House Floor. The bill would instruct the Attorney General to conduct a study on racial profiling in traffic stops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> for enactment of racial profiling bills</li> </ul> <p>Democrats have been fighting for enactment of proposals to begin rooting out racial profiling in our law enforcement system, including the Traffic Stops Statistics Study Act and the Law Enforcement Integrity Act, which would authorize the study of investigatory actions carried out by Federal law enforcement agencies by race, ethnicity and gender.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>BLOCKED</b> <u>African American</u> to the Federal Bench</li> </ul> <p>The Republican-controlled Senate has often stalled the confirmations of African American judges to the federal bench. In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Senate has taken 232 days on average to confirm minority and women candidates, 73 more than the average time it took for white males to be confirmed (159 days).</p> <p>In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, the GOP-controlled Senate has completely <u>blocked</u> six of President Clinton's African American judicial nominations – including Clinton's nomination, made in August 1999, of the highly-qualified James Wynn for the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Blocking Wynn's nomination is particularly outrageous because, despite having more African-American residents than any Circuit in the country, the Fourth Circuit has <u>never</u> had an African-American judge in the history of this country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>STOOD UP</b> for <u>African American nominations</u> to the Federal Bench</li> </ul> <p>Democrats have consistently fought for the promotion of <u>all</u> highly-qualified nominees, including African Americans, to the federal bench.</p> <p>President Clinton has worked over the last 8 years for greater judicial diversity. Clinton has appointed 54 African Americans to federal district courts and 8 to federal circuit courts. It has only been the <u>persistence</u> of Democrats that has kept the Senate confirmation process moving at all, despite many efforts by Senate Republicans to stall the process, enabling a number of qualified and distinguished African American nominees to ultimately be confirmed to the federal judicial bench.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>REFUSED</b> to protect the <u>civil and legal rights of all</u></li> </ul> <p>Over the last six years, congressional Republicans have voted to cut key civil rights enforcement and legal services budgets, including the budgets of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Civil Rights Commission and Legal Services Corporation. They have also voted to undermine the Community Reinvestment Act, which is designed to ensure fair bank lending practices in low-income and minority communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> for <u>civil and legal rights of all</u></li> </ul> <p>Democrats have consistently fought to ensure civil and legal rights for all Americans. They have worked for better funding for the important work of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Civil Rights Commission and Legal Services Corporation. They have also fought to retain the Community Reinvestment Act to ensure fair bank lending practices in low-income and minority communities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have worked to <b>UNDERFUND</b> a number of the key <u>education</u> initiatives supported by Democrats</li> </ul> <p>Republicans have voted for education funding bills that fail to guarantee a single federal dollar for class size reduction, reject the Democrats' Teacher Quality Initiative, reject the Democrats' school renovation proposal, cut \$50.8 million from the Democrats' Safe and Drug-Free Schools proposal and cut \$600 million from the Democrats' Head Start proposal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> to better ensure a quality <u>education</u> for all of America's schoolchildren</li> </ul> <p>Democrats believe that much more needs to be done to ensure that a quality education is available for all of America's schoolchildren. Democrats have been fighting for a multi-pronged agenda to improve public education – including reducing class size in the early grades, modernizing schools, promoting teacher quality, expanding after-school programs, expanding Head Start and closing the Digital Divide.</p>

# HISPANIC AMERICANS

REPUBLICANS:	DEMOCRATS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have sought to <b>UNDERCOUNT</b> Hispanics in the <b><u>2000 Census</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Republicans have spent the last four years trying to ensure that the Census Bureau could not use sampling in the 2000 Census – a technique that many experts believe is the only way to correct the problem of the undercounting of certain populations, including minorities. Some Republicans have candidly admitted that the GOP opposition to sampling is totally political – i.e., they are afraid it would endanger the GOP control of Congress.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> to respect and count every American in the <b><u>2000 Census</u></b></li> </ul> <p>More than four million people were not counted in the 1990 Census. Hispanics were <u>particularly impacted</u> – the 1990 Census missed one out of every 20 Hispanics, for a total of 1.1 million Hispanics not counted. Therefore, Democrats have been fighting to ensure a more accurate count in the 2000 Census. Experts at the Census Bureau have stated that it is only through sampling that the undercount can be significantly reduced.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have worked to <b>BLOCK</b> <b><u>Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Republicans have spent the last two years blocking the provisions of the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act, a bill which would bring fairness to the nation's immigration laws by at long last stabilizing the status of immigrants who have lived, worked, and paid taxes in the United States for many years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> for the <b><u>Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Democrats have made the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act one of their top legislative priorities. On September 26, Democrats sent a letter to President Clinton stating that they were committed to ensuring that this bill be included in the Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations conference report and vowed to sustain a veto if the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act was not included.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>REFUSED</b> to protect the <b><u>civil and legal rights of all</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Over the last six years, congressional Republicans have voted to <u>cut</u> key civil rights enforcement and legal services budgets and undermine the Community Reinvestment Act to ensure fair bank lending practices in low-income and minority communities, and have blocked action on key civil rights legislation such as racial profiling and hate crimes legislation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> for <b><u>civil and legal rights of all</u></b></li> </ul> <p>Democrats have consistently fought to ensure civil and legal rights for all Americans, by standing up for racial profiling and hate crimes legislation and better funding for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Civil Rights Commission, and Legal Services Corporation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>BLOCKED</b> <b><u>restoring benefits</u></b> to certain legal immigrants</li> </ul> <p>Throughout the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, Republicans have blocked Democratic proposals to restore benefits to certain legal immigrants, including allowing states to cover certain legal immigrant children under Medicaid and CHIP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> to <b><u>restore benefits</u></b> to certain legal immigrants</li> </ul> <p>Democrats have worked in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress to restore benefits to certain legal immigrants, including giving states the option of providing certain legal immigrant children and pregnant women health care coverage under Medicaid and CHIP.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>BLOCKED</b> <b><u>Latino nominations</u></b> to the Federal Bench</li> </ul> <p>Since Republicans took charge in 1995, Hispanic-American judicial appointees have been forced to wait longer for Senate votes than any other ethnic group. Also, in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senate GOP has successfully <u>blocked</u> two highly-qualified Hispanic nominees from getting on the Federal Bench – Enrique Moreno, nominated for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and Ricardo Morado, nominated for a federal district court in Texas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>STOOD UP</b> for <b><u>Latino nominations</u></b> to the Federal Bench</li> </ul> <p>Only the persistence of Democrats has kept the process moving, enabling qualified and distinguished Latino nominees to be confirmed to the federal judicial bench. For example, it took four years of persistence by the Democrats to get the highly-qualified Richard Paez confirmed for the Ninth Circuit. Paez was nominated in 1996 and not confirmed until March of 2000.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>UNDERMINED</b> <b><u>educational opportunities</u></b> for Hispanic children</li> </ul> <p>Republicans have repeatedly voted to significantly cut such programs as bilingual and immigrant education and adult literacy. They have also attempted to underfund such programs important to Hispanic children as class size reduction and Head Start.</p> <p>In addition, Republicans have repeatedly attempted to underfund President's Clinton's Hispanic Education Action Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have <b>FOUGHT</b> for improving <b><u>educational opportunities</u></b> for Hispanic children</li> </ul> <p>Democrats have been fighting to win key investments in public education including reducing class size, modernizing schools, expanding after-school programs, and closing the Digital Divide, as well as funding the President's Hispanic Education Action Plan.</p> <p>Overall, Democrats won increases over FY1998 of \$524 million in FY 1999 and over FY1999 of \$436 million in FY 2000 for the components of the President's Hispanic Education Action Plan.</p>